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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,516	10/10/2001	Markku Lahteenmaki	460-010615-US(PAR)	9768

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425 POST ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

EXAMINER

BHATTACHARYA, SAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2687

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/975,516

Applicant(s)

LAHTEENMAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Sam Bhattacharya

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 7, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1, 5-9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green (WO 98/10571) in view of Sudo et al. (US 5,999,827).

As to claim 1, Figure 1 in Green shows a communication device (2) including at least a housing (2) having at least a first part (5) and a second part (3), and means for providing user interface functions (UI1), including at least a first keypad (3) and a display (5), wherein the user interface (UI1) is arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover (1) in a detachable manner in connection with the housing (2), substantially parallel to the second part (3), onto or in place of the second part (3), and that said replacement cover (1) includes at least means (6, 8) for providing key functions ("referring to both figures, a keypad adaptor 1 is mounted on a mobile telephone 2. The mobile telephone 2 has a keypad 3 including keys 4, and a display screen 5. Adaptor 1 has a keypad plate 6 which is mounted on the telephone 2 by a U-shaped mounting

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bracket 7 shown by dashed lines in Fig. 2 in order that the other features of the adaptor 1 may be clearly seen. Adaptor 1 includes six buttons 8 mounted on plate 6 above selected ones of the keys 4 of the telephone 2, the keys 4 being chosen so as to allow a user to call telephone numbers stored in a memory of the telephone 2" (page 7, lines 16-28)).

Green fails to disclose means for providing keys for applications and changing the functionality of the keys.

In an analogous art, Sudo et al. disclose a communication terminal apparatus that includes means 4 for providing keys 1, 2 and 3 for applications and changing the functionality of the keys, thereby enabling several functions to be performed with a minimal number of keys. See col. 5, lines 19-22. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication device of Green by changing the functionality of the keys, as taught by Sudo et al., for the purpose of enabling various additional functions to be performed without increasing the number of keys on the communication device.

As to claim 5, Figures 1 and 2 in Green show the communication device (2) according to claim 1, wherein the second part (3) includes a first keypad (3), that the means (6) of the replacement cover (1) for providing keys for playing games includes a second keypad (6), that the replacement cover (1) is arranged to be fixed onto the second part (3), and that the keys (8) of said second keypad (6) are placed in such a way that when the replacement cover (1) is fixed onto the second part (3), at least some of the keys (8) of the second keypad (6) are at the location of at least one key (4) of the first keypad (3), wherein the user interface (UI1) includes the display (5) and the second keypad (6) (see page 7, lines 16-28).

As to claim 6, the Green reference discloses the communication device (2) according to claim 1, wherein the communication device (2) includes means (9, 10) for activating the keys (8) of the second keypad (6) to function non-simultaneously with the keys (4) of the first keypad (3) (see page 7, line 29 to page 8, line 7).

As to claim 7, the Green reference discloses the communication device according to claim 1, wherein it is a wireless communication device (“the present invention relates to a telephone accessory and equipment, and in particular to a telephone accessory and equipment for assisting physically impaired persons to use conventional and/or mobile telephones” (page 1, lines 3-7)).

As to claim 8, the Green reference discloses the communication device (2) according to claim 1, wherein the means (9, 10) for providing keys for playing games of the replacement cover (1) include a one touchable area (12) for a key function which touchable area is larger than the touchable area of the keys of the keypad (3) onto which the replacement cover (1) is placed (“the contact surfaces 12 of each button are larger and their centers more spaced apart than those of the keys 4 of the telephone, and thus enable a user to more easily make a telephone call without for example pressing a wrong key or two keys together” (page 8, lines 17-21)).

As to claim 9, the Green reference discloses a method for changing the user interface (U11) in a communication device (2) including at least a housing (2) which includes at least a first part (5) and a second part (3), and means for providing user interface functions (U11), including at least a first keypad (3) and a display (5), wherein in the method, the user interface (U11) is changed by placing a replacement cover (1) in a detachable manner in connection with the housing (2), substantially parallel to the second part (3), onto or in place of the second part

(3), and that said replacement cover (1) is equipped with at least means (6, 8) for providing key functions (“referring to both figures, a keypad adaptor 1 is mounted on a mobile telephone 2. The mobile telephone 2 has a keypad 3 including keys 4, and a display screen 5. Adaptor 1 has a keypad plate 6 which is mounted on the telephone 2 by a U-shaped mounting bracket 7 shown by dashed lines in Fig. 2 in order that the other features of the adaptor 1 may be clearly seen.

Adaptor 1 includes six buttons 8 mounted on plate 6 above selected ones of the keys 4 of the telephone 2, the keys 4 being chosen so as to allow a user to call telephone numbers stored in a memory of the telephone 2” (page 7, lines 16-28)).

Green fails to disclose means for providing keys for applications and changing the functionality of the keys.

In an analogous art, Sudo et al. disclose a communication terminal apparatus that includes means 4 for providing keys 1, 2 and 3 for applications and changing the functionality of the keys, thereby enabling several functions to be performed with a minimal number of keys. See col. 5, lines 19-22. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication device of Green by changing the functionality of the keys, as taught by Sudo et al., for the purpose of enabling various additional functions to be performed without increasing the number of keys on the communication device.

As to claim 11, the Green reference discloses the method according to claim 11, wherein the keypad (6) is placed in the replacement cover (1) which is formed of a cover part (9) and a functional cover (6), and which replacement cover (1) is equipped with key elements (10) for detecting the stroke of keys (8) of said keypad (6), and information about the keystrokes is

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transferred from the replacement cover (1) to the communication device (2) (see page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 7, and Figures 1 and 2).

As to claim 12, the Green reference discloses the method according to claim 9, wherein the replacement cover (1) is provided with a second keypad (6) in such a way that when the replacement cover (1) is fixed onto the second part (3) of the housing (2), at least some of the keys (8) of the second keypad (6) are located by at least one key (4) of the first keypad (3) (see page 7, lines 16-28, and Figures 1 and 2).

3. Claims 2-4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green in view of Sudo et al., and further in view of Fuhrmann et al. (WO 97/32423).

As to claim 2, the Green-Sudo discloses the communication device (2) according to claim 1, wherein and that at least part of the first keypad (3) is provided in said replacement cover (1) (see page 7, lines 16-28). However, it does not disclose the second part is arranged to be detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part. The Fuhrmann reference teaches the second part is arranged to be detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part ("the invention relates to an electronic device having a housing (1) which has a housing wall (5) ("first part") with openings (7) for control elements (8) and/or display elements (9, 10).

Attachment means (11) for detachably connecting to the housing (1) an external wall element (14) ("second part") which at least partially covers the housing wall (5) being present on the housing (1), the external wall element (14) having openings (7') which are aligned with the openings (7) in the housing wall (5). As a result, by using different external wall elements (14) the external appearance of the electronic device can be easily modified" (Abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication device of Green-Sudo wherein the second part is arranged to be detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part, as taught by Fuhrmann, in order to easily modify the external appearance of the communication device.

As to claim 3, Green-Sudo discloses the communication device according to claim 1. However, it does not disclose the replacement cover further includes a display. The Fuhrmann reference teaches the replacement cover further includes a display ("openings which are present in the external wall element 14 for the display device 9 and the loudspeaker device/microphone device 10 can be covered, for example by means of a transparent element 15 or a grille 16" (page 6, lines 7-9). See also Figures 1 and 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication device of Green-Sudo wherein the replacement cover further includes a display, as taught by Fuhrmann, in order to easily modify the external appearance of the communication device.

As to claim 4, Green-Fuhrman discloses the communication device according to claim 2. Green-Sudo further discloses the replacement cover (1) includes at least a cover part (9) and a functional cover (6), that the means (6) for providing the keys for playing games include key elements (8) for detecting a pressing of the keys of the keypad (6), and that the replacement cover (1) further includes means (10) for transferring information about the keystrokes to the communication device (2) (see page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 7).

As to claim 10, Green-Sudo discloses the method according to claim 9. However, it does not disclose the second part is detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part.

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The Fuhrmann reference teaches the second part is detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part ("the invention relates to an electronic device having a housing (1) which has a housing wall (5) ("first part") with openings (7) for control elements (8) and/or display elements (9, 10). Attachment means (11) for detachably connecting to the housing (1) an external wall element (14) ("second part") which at least partially covers the housing wall (5) being present on the housing (1), the external wall element (14) having openings (7') which are aligned with the openings (7) in the housing wall (5). As a result, by using different external wall elements (14) the external appearance of the electronic device can be easily modified" (Abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Green-Sudo wherein the second part is detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part, as taught by Fuhrmann, in order to easily modify the external appearance of the communication device.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Bhattacharya whose telephone number is (571) 272-7917.


The examiner can normally be reached on Weekdays, 9-6, with first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester G. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-7922.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sb


4/28/05
LESTER G. KINCAID
PRIMARY EXAMINER